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On page 12, line 7, change "housing 101" to --reader 100--.

On page 12, line 10, delete "110".

On page 12, line 11, change "control unit 112" to --controller--.

On page 12, line 15, change "116" to --117--.

On page 12, line 16, change "The" to --A--.

On page 12, line 17, change "117 is connected to" to --(not separately shown) is

incorporated in--.

On page 12, line 17, change "116" to --117--.

On page 13, line 1, delete "116".

On page 13, line 2, change "control unit 117 by the CPU 119" to --digitizer by the controller 116--.

On page 14, line 10, change "124" to --128--.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-19.

Add the following claims.

--20. A hand-held apparatus for writing optical indicia on a medium, the apparatus comprising:

- a housing configured to be hand held;
- a central processing unit (CPU) for controlling the apparatus;
- an interface for connecting the apparatus to external devices;
- a light source for generating a light beam suited for writing the optical indicia on the medium; and
- a scanning element under control of the CPU that directs the light beam at the medium in a pattern prescribed by the CPU.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the optical indicia comprises alphanumeric characters.

22. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the medium is thermal sensitive.